

Wheel-To-Wheel Race Report

By: M.G. Lewis

RACE REPORT

Race 1

Iain Waugh once again drove his yellow RX7 to a first overall in the closed wheel race. The real battle was among the Spec Racers with lots of dicing throughout the race. In the end Shigeomi Hirabayashi emerged victorious followed by Dave Goto, Bob Westmoreland and Eric Inouye. This was Bob's first SCCA race in a long time. Welcome back! Lee Guertler finished first in RS and fifth overall in his Z-Car. Carl Debo's new RX7 suffered mechanical failure early in the race.

Race 2

The battle for first place was fierce in the opening lap of this race with Bob Sato coming out on top. Bob began to fade as the race wore on and Lee Jensen moved into the lead. He was closely followed by Howard Ruth who had been plagued by mechanical problems during practice. Bill Clutter dominated the FF race as Steve Hirasuna and Tom Burke battled for second. Steve Timpson and Gary Tamura were both sidelined with broken cars.

Solo I

The usual crew turned out for our Solo I, but it was a rough day for the Porsche contingent. Lindsey Akamu started the day with a tire problem which proved to be only a

bad valve stem. Ed Higa, however, was not as lucky and suffered some bent valves inside his engine. (Haven't we heard this story before?) After seeing how the day was going Ron Mishima decided not to push his luck. Paul Schwartz crashed his newly painted car in the sweeper. Ed Kemper and Dave Petruska had no problems. All in all it was not the best of days for the Solo group.

A NEW CAR JOINS SCCA RACING

Carl Debo's ITA RX7 looked great on its SCCA debut and passed its first tech inspection with flying colors. Unfortunately the day turned into more of a test and tune session for Carl as he tried to sort out all the gremlins that always pop up in a new race car. Carl has raced with us several times in HIRS Spec Racers. We welcome Carl to SCCA racing as an owner / driver and wish him better luck in January.

THE RUBBER ROOM STRIKES AGAIN

After several years of running in Solo II, Paul Schwartz's DSR was finally complete and it looked fantastic with its fresh white paint. Paul decided to play it safe by entering the Solo I so his car would be fully sorted for our next race. That was the plan. A failure in the front suspension, however, caused the car to take a large bite out of the tires in the sweeper. Paul wasn't hurt, but the car doesn't look too good.